Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

A Glance Into The History of God's Pilgrim People In Northern Ohio

Pioneers and Missionaries

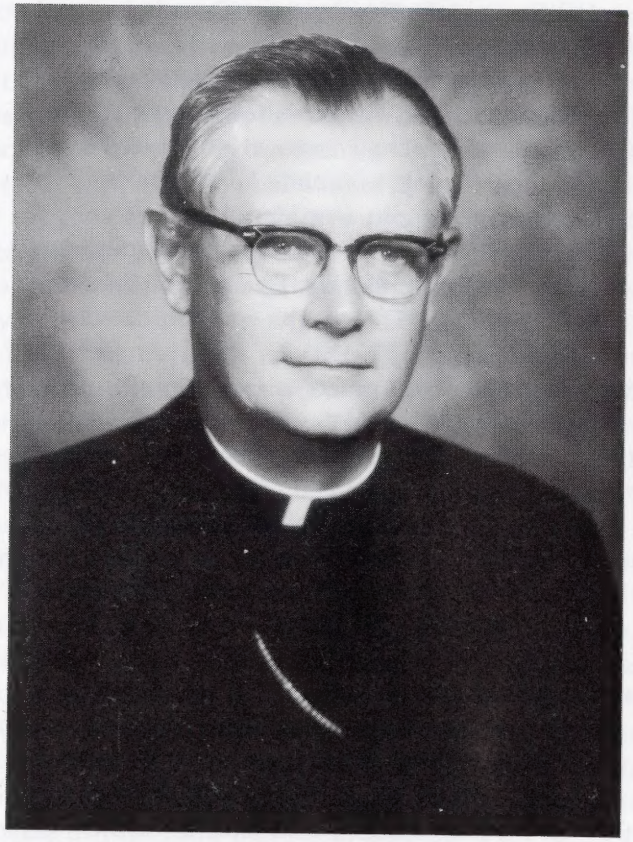
The growth, vitality, and progress of the Roman Catholic Church in Northern Ohio are greatly reflected in the history of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. The Diocese of Cleveland is rightly proud of this church which has witnessed over one hundred and twenty-five years of life in our area. The beginning of the history of the Catholic Church in this area, however, dates back much further.

In 1749 Jesuit Father J. P. de Bonnecamps accompanied the French explorer Céleron de Blainville who journeyed on an expedition down the Ohio River and up the Great Miami and the Maumee to the present site of Toledo. Father de Bonnecamps undoubtedly celebrated Mass in Ohio during this year. Reports of earlier visits by various missionaries cannot be proven.

During the years 1793 to 1796, a group of men headed by General Moses Cleaveland arrived in Northern Ohio to set about exploring and mapping out the area granted to Connecticut as a "Western Reserve" in gratitude for the service of the citizens of that state during the Revolutionary War. The end result of this effort was the foundation of a small settlement at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River which was named after the General who led the expedition.

By 1803, the area which presently comprises the State of Ohio had developed and been settled to the point where it was admitted to the Union as the seventeenth state. The numbers of Catholic settlers in the area also continued to increase so that the Diocese of Cincinnati was created in 1821, and included not only Ohio, but parts of Michigan and Kentucky as well. By 1820, the first Catholic church in Northern Ohio had been built: St. Paul's near Dungannon in Columbiana County. It was from there that Father Thomas Martin, O.P., traveled to Cleveland in 1826 to celebrate Mass. The first Catholic church to be built within the present limits of the Diocese of Cleveland was SS. Peter and Paul in Doylestown, Wayne County. The congregation was organized in 1827 and built a log church in 1829. Bishop Edward Fenwick, who had established the Diocese of Cincinnati, died of cholera at Wooster, Wayne County, while visiting there in 1832. He was succeeded by Bishop John Baptist Purcell.

The settlement at Cleveland grew very slowly. Early in 1835, Father John Dillon came here as the first resident pastor of the five Catholic families in a village of a few hundred people. His good works were many, but his health was very poor, and he died on .

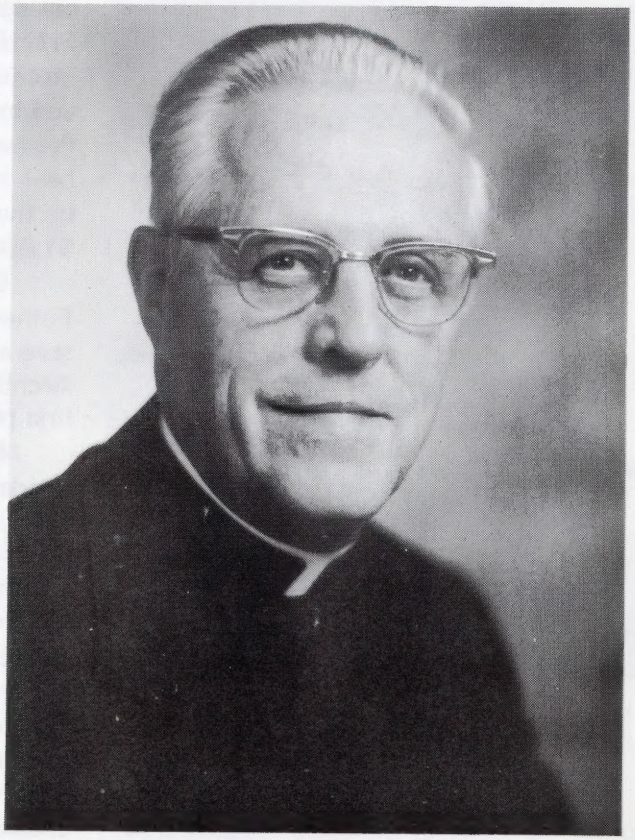


The Most Reverend James A. Hickey
Present Bishop of Cleveland

VERITATEM IN CARITATE

"I will set up shepherds over them, and they shall feed them"

Jeremiah 23:4



Monsignor Robert C. Blair
Present Pastor of the Cathedral

The first Catholic church in Cleveland was dedicated "Our Lady of the Lake," but became known as "St. Mary's on the Flats"

October 16, 1836, at the age of twenty-nine, having been a priest for only two years. During his short time, he had regularly celebrated Mass in at least three locations besides private homes: in Shakespeare Hall, at the foot of Superior Hill; in the frame cottage where he lived on the west side of Erie (East 9th) Street near Prospect; and in Mechanics' Hall at the corner of Prospect; and in Mechanics' Hall at the corner of Prospect and Ontario Streets. His dream had been to construct a permanent church, and by the time of his death, he had collected $1,000 for that purpose.

During these years of 1835 to 1837 Father Stephen T. Badin visited Cleveland several times. He had been ordained by Archbishop John Carroll in 1793, and was the first priest ordained in the United States.

Father Patrick O'Dwyer was the second resident pastor, arriving in September of 1837. In October of that same year, a free grant of land was given to Bishop Purcell which gave him "in trust for the Roman Catholic Society of the Lady of the Lake lots 218 and 219 in the plat of Cleveland Centre, to be owned and used by said Society for the building thereon of a suitable house or church to be used as a place of public worship . . . ." The lot was subject only to the conditions set forth in the deed, and with the money collected by his predecessor, Father O'Dwyer began the work of fulfilling the conditions of the deed. The new church, at the corner of Columbus and Girard Streets, was erected but not complete when Father O'Dwyer left Cleveland for Canada in June of 1839.

After Father O'Dwyer's departure, Cleveland was without a resident priest for over a year. The congregation, visited by Bishop Purcell, completed and furnished the church. Without a resident pastor, the congregation recited the Rosary on Sunday mornings and read the Epistle and Gospel of the Sunday. The church was dedicated on Sunday, June 7, 1840, by the Bishop of Toule-Nancy, France, with Bishop Purcell preaching.

This first Catholic church in Cleveland was actually dedicated "Our Lady of the Lake," but became popularly known as "St. Mary's on the Flats."

A Bishop For Cleveland

Father Peter McLaughlin became the third resident pastor of Cleveland in October of 1840. He was a very dedicated priest who built on and reaped the harvest of his predecessors, and esteem for him reached beyond the bounds of the Catholic community. "Father Peter," as he was popularly known, saw his congregation increase rapidly and recognized the need to provide for the future. The original

allotments of Moses Cleaveland filled up rapidly, and the city began to spread itself out toward the East from the River. In what was known as the May Woods, a flat marshy tract of land abutting the east side of Erie (East 9th) Street, Thomas May offered lots for sale. Although the soil was uninviting, the location was desirable, since Father Peter thought that the city would soon spread beyond this point. Accordingly, in January of 1845, the lots upon which the cathedral and part of the cathedral rectory now stand were purchased for $4,000. The purchase was criticized by some members of the congregation for being too far "out in the country," since Erie Street was then the eastern boundary of the city.

It was around this time that Bishop Purcell, recognizing the growth and the increased needs of his large diocese, petitioned Rome for a division of the Diocese of Cincinnati. Cleveland was suggested as the most appropriate city in northern Ohio to be the Episcopal See and as a result, the new Diocese of Cleveland was established on April 23, 1847, and Father Amadeus Rappe was chosen as its first Bishop.

Louis Amadeus Rappe was born in Audrehen, France, on February 2, 1801. He was ordained by the Bishop of Arras on March 14, 1829. He served as a parish priest and then as a chaplain to the Ursuline convent at Boulogne-sur-Mer, during which time he met Bishop Purcell who had come to France seeking those who would come to work in his mission territory of Ohio. During the years 1839-1840, Rappe as well as three other priests of the same area set out to begin a new life as missionaries. The three other priests were Jean Baptiste Lamy, who would later become the first Archbishop of Santa Fe; Joseph Machebeuf, later the first Bishop of Denver; and Louis De Goesbriand, later the first Bishop of Burlington, Vermont. Within months of their various arrivals here, they were sent to different parts of the Diocese of Cincinnati: Lamy to Danville; Machebeuf to Tiffin; De Goesbriand to Louisville in Stark County; and Rappe to Toledo. They all developed and maintained their friendship with one another throughout their years as missionaries, both as priests of one diocese and later as bishops of widely separate territories.

In Toledo, Father Rappe established the parish of St. Francis de Sales, and from the summer of 1841 to the spring of 1846, his labors, privations, and difficulties were indeed trying. It was here, among those involved in the hard labor of building the Miami and Erie

Bishop Louis Amadeus Rappe
First Bishop of Cleveland
1847-1870

Canal, that he witnessed the effects of excessive drinking both on the ones drinking and on their innocent families and loved ones. His battle against intemperance continued for the remainder of his life.

In 1846, Father De Goesbriand came to assist Father Rappe in Toledo, and the two good friends remained there until the latter's election as Bishop of Cleveland the following year.

Bishop Purcell consecrated Bishop Rappe on October 10, 1847, and Cleveland's first bishop arrived to take possession of his new See later that same month. The new diocese, which consisted of the thirty-three counties in the northern half of the state, had a total of forty-two churches, twenty-one priests, two convents, and approximately ten thousand Catholics. The See city itself had only one church, one priest, no convents, and about four thousand Catholics out of an estimated population of seventeen thousand.

Father McLaughlin had been transferred in February of 1846, and was replaced by Father Maurice Howard, who was here to receive the new bishop. Father Howard, besides tending to the needs of St. Mary's, also had charge of missions in Lake, Lorain, and Geauga counties, which had previously been attended by his predecessor.

Soon after his arrival the bishop saw the pressing need of better and more ample church facilities for the rapidly increasing number of Catholics in Cleveland. The Church on the Flats had become too small to accommodate them. Besides, the Germans were requesting sermons in their native tongue, and when the bishop was able to secure the services of some German-speaking priests, they began to have separate services at St. Mary's.

The *Cleveland Herald* of March 16, 1848, bore the following item:

> **The Catholic population of our city and immediate vicinity now numbers about 4,000, and the wants of the people require a much larger and more central place of worship than St. Mary's Church. An effort will be made to build a cathedral the present year, and for this purpose the well-known liberality of our citizens will be appealed to. A site for the location of the cathedral at the head of Superior, and the corner of Erie and Meadow Streets has been purchased, and we have seen a drawing of the proposed edifice, which will add very much to the good taste and inviting appearance of our beautiful young city.**

On October 23, 1848, the day after the cornerstone was laid for the cathedral, the bishop purchased five additional lots adjoining those purchased in 1845. On one of the lots now occupied by the cathedral rectory, a temporary frame church known as the Church of the Nativity was built, and Mass was celebrated there for the first time on Christmas of 1848. The building served as a "chapel of ease" to St. Mary's on the Flats, until the completion of the cathedral in November of 1852.

Building The Cathedral

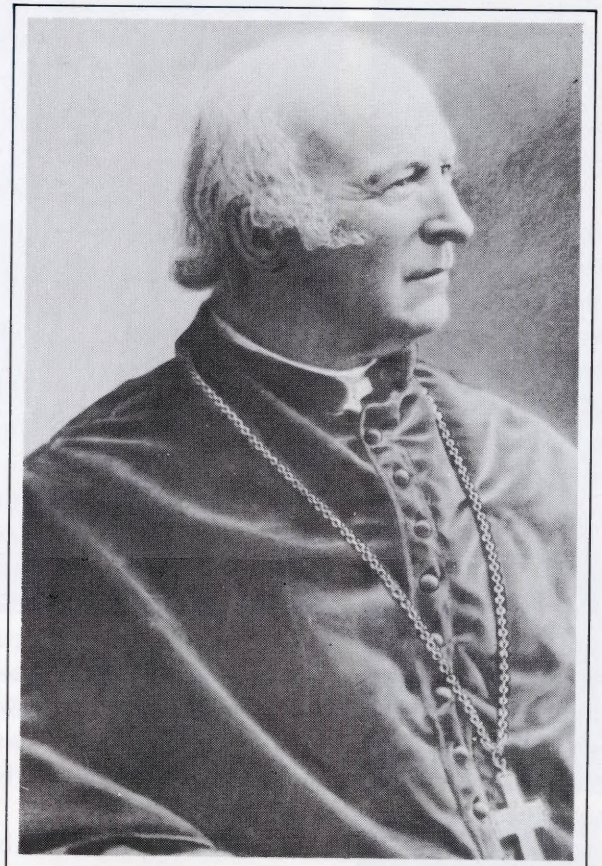
St. Mary's on the Flats served as the first cathedral from the beginning of the Diocese until 1852, and is rightly given the title of Pro-Cathedral. With the development of the city and the movement of people out of the original area of the "Flats", St. Mary's never really served as a separate parish from St. John Cathedral. It temporarily housed several parish congregations as they became organized and eventually formed more permanent parish centers elsewhere, but never developed any further itself.

Bishop Rappe and his chief contractor, John B. Wigman, drew up most of the designs for the exterior of the cathedral. The interior, and the greatest part of the work of designing the church, however, was done by Patrick Charles Keeley who was just beginning his career as a church architect. His work as a cathedral builder was to see him design and construct a total of sixteen cathedral churches in cities such as Charleston, Boston, and Chicago. St. John Cathedral was the first one he completed.

The foundations of the building were completed in 1848, and the superstructure was begun the following spring. The walls were up 25 feet in September but the roof was not put on until the next summer. The slate, fastened with copper nails, was imported from Wales. Financial difficulties delayed completion. The bishop had not received all that he hoped from his visit to France in 1849 seeking funds. A financial panic in New York at about the same time also prevented any help from the people there. He made another begging trip through Ohio, and was able to receive some help from people in Cincinnati. In the meanwhile, the basement of the cathedral was roofed over and used as a chapel in which three Sunday Masses were celebrated. The adjacent Nativity Chapel continued to be used for the Children's Mass at nine o'clock and for another at eleven.

Upon completion, the cathedral was a plain, substantial brick edifice of the style known as "Ornamental Gothic," and faced on Erie (East 9th) Street. It was 170 feet long by 75 feet wide, and had a seating capacity for approximately nine hundred persons. The interior was done in the Gothic style, and included a carved oak altar and statues which were made in France.

Father De Goesbriand, who had been pastor of St. Mary's on the Flats, became the first pastor of the cathedral until 1853, when he was chosen as the first Bishop of Burlington, Vermont. Upon his departure, Bishop Rappe himself assumed the pastorate of the cathedral, and continued in it until his resignation in 1870.



Bishop Richard Gilmour
Second Bishop of Cleveland
1872-1892

"You did not choose Me, no, I chose you"

John 15:16

Bishop Richard Gilmour became the Second Bishop of Cleveland in 1872. Because of the press of duties in administering a growing diocese, he chose to appoint Father Felix Boff pastor of the Cathedral in 1873 and he remained in that post until ill health forced him to resign in 1876. It was during his pastorate that the present cathedral rectory was built which also accommodated the diocesan chancery. When Bishop Rappe had first come to Cleveland, he lived in rented quarters by the haymarket south of Public Square, and in a short while he moved to a house on Bond Street (present site of the Bond Court Hotel). Here he established St. Mary Seminary (Our Lady of the Lake) and lived until leaving Cleveland. The building now constructed immediately to the east of the cathedral was to be the new episcopal residence.

In 1876, Monsignor Thomas P. Thorpe became the second cathedral pastor under Bishop Gilmour. He remained as pastor for seventeen years, and accomplished a great deal. It was during his time that the cathedral was further ornamented and re-

decorated, in many ways completing the church in a way that had not been financially possible at the time of its construction. In 1878, the front was entirely remodeled and many richly carved and ornamented sandstone trimmings were added. In 1879, a very large and graceful spire was added to the central tower in the front. A gilt cross topped the spire two hundred and forty feet above the pavement.

At this point, let us return for a moment to the original church of St. Mary's on the Flats. As was mentioned earlier, after the building of the cathedral, St. Mary's ceased to be a viable parish. It came to serve successively as the "first church" of many later congregations: 1853, German (later St. Peter's congregation); 1854, German (west of the River, later known as St. Mary's of the Assumption); 1865, Irish (later St. Malachi's congregation); 1867, Bohemian (later St. Wenceslas' congregation); 1870, French (later Annunciation); 1872, Polish (later St. Stanislaus' congregation. By 1879 St. Mary's was practically abandoned. Bishop Gilmour asked old, retired Monsignor Boff to celebrate the last Mass in that church on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1886. The old church was a sad sight. Part of the steeple was blown down in a windstorm a few years previous. The roof was leaky from lack of repair, and the windows were broken and some of them entirely empty of glass. After the Mass in the cold and icy church, a number of people expressed an interest in trying to restore the church as a monument to the early settlers. Some attempts were made to raise money for this purpose, but the project ultimately failed, and Bishop Gilmour had the church torn down in September, 1888.

Meanwhile, the beautification of the cathedral continued. In 1884, the interior of the church was thoroughly renovated and painted. The Main Altar was regilded and a large episcopal throne was built in the sanctuary. An altar railing and other sanctuary furnishings of black walnut were added. Stained-glass windows were installed above the three altars, and a vestibule was added at the entrance. New statues were eventually put into place, and two large marble vases which Bishop Gilmour had imported from Italy were placed on either side of the Main Altar.

The first parochial school in the cathedral parish was held in the Chapel of the Nativity. St. John's School for boys was erected in 1857 and by 1867 the old Cathedral Hall, its chapel and the school for girls were completed. Before the construction of these buildings, the boys of the parish were taught by lay teachers, principally seminarians, in a building in the rear of the episcopal residence on Bond Street; and the girls by the Ursuline Nuns in a range of one-story buildings along Euclid Avenue, in front of the old Ursuline Convent (at about East 6th Street, present site of the former Taylor's Department Store building).

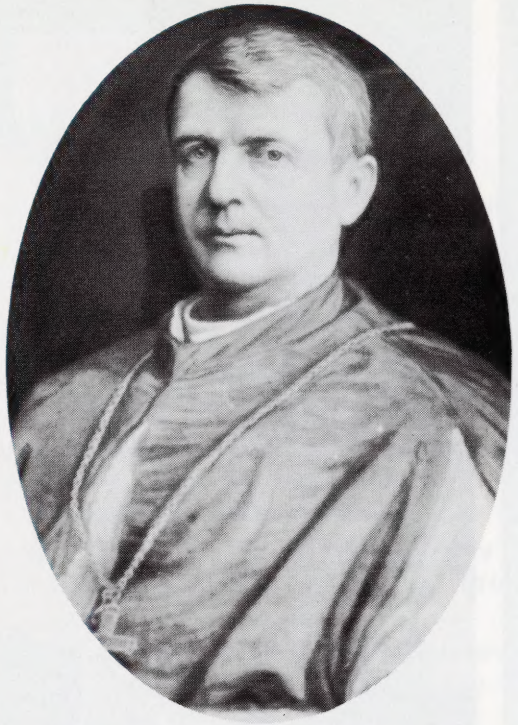
In 1888, the new school building (present Chancery building) was begun. The old school and hall were torn down. The new building was to accommodate about a thousand pupils, and included a chapel and assembly hall, as well as rooms for various parish societies. The cost of the structure was $55,000. From about 1867, the boys were taught by the Marianist Brothers, and the girls by the Ursuline Nuns.

Ignatius Frederick Horstmann became the Third Bishop of Cleveland in 1892; Bishop Gilmour had died the previous year. During his time, the Golden Jubilee of the Consecration of the Cathedral was celebrated in 1902. Once again, the structure was renovated, and the present windows, made in Munich, were installed. The festivities included a pontifical Mass, and a lengthy parade of former pupils of the school, and Catholic societies throughout the Diocese. The number of people involved totalled

Some of the highlights of the Cathedral: above from left, the Altar of Sacrifice, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the Ambo (pulpit). At right, the Cathedra *of the bishop and the adjoining seats, called the* presbyterium, *for concelebrating priests*

"O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, the tenting place of your glory"

Psalms 26:8



Bishop Ignatius Frederick Horstmann
Third Bishop of Cleveland
1892-1909

almost fifteen thousand. It was at this celebration that the bronze statue of Bishop Rappe was unveiled on the corner of East 9th and Superior by the venerable Bishop McQuaid of Rochester, who had known all the bishops of Cleveland.

Even while the celebration continued, Bishop Horstmann had a plan in mind to build a new cathedral on Euclid Avenue and East 79th Street, the present site of St. Agnes Parish. He had even purchased property adjacent to the grounds of St. Agnes although he knew that the realization of his hope would not be possible for a long time.

Cleveland received its first auxiliary bishop during Bishop Horstmann's time. Father Joseph M. Koudelka was consecrated bishop on February 25, 1908, just a few months before Bishop Horstmann's death, and eventually became Bishop of Superior, Wisconsin.

In May of 1909, John Patrick Farrelly became the Fourth Bishop of Cleveland, and for eleven years shepherded this diocese. Early in his tenure, the new Diocese of Toledo was created in 1910, consisting of almost half the territory of the original Diocese of Cleveland. This left the seventeen counties of northeastern Ohio to Cleveland. In 1911, Bishop Joseph Schrembs, Auxiliary Bishop of Grand Rapids, was installed as the First Bishop of Toledo. It is worthy of note that he was installed in the pro-Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales, the parish which Bishop Rappe founded in his early missionary days.

As did his predecessor, Bishop Farrelly considered building a new cathedral somewhere else in the city. He was the first bishop who chose to live away from the cathedral, and purchased a home in Cleveland Heights. The Heights area was one consideration for relocating the cathedral. He also purchased some land in University Circle—approximately the present site of Severance Hall—as a possible location. Some architectural plans for a great Romanesque church were drawn up but no final action was taken before Bishop Farrelly's death in 1921.

Enthusiasm and Growth

June of 1921 saw the appointment of Bishop Schrembs of Toledo as the Fifth Bishop of Cleveland. Bishop Schrembs

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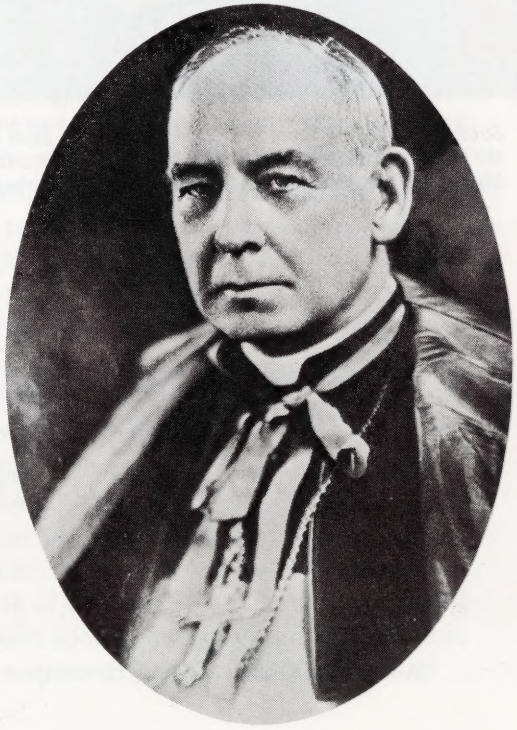
Bishop John P. Farrelly
Fourth Bishop of Cleveland
1909-1921



Clockwise, circa 1900: the cathedral interior, episcopal residence, school, the cathedral, and the first bishop's house on Bond Street (inset)

The Sanctuary and the wood-carved reredos with representations of the four Evangelists provide the setting for the liturgical life of the Cathedral

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts"

Psalms 84:1

The shrines, statues, and Stations of the Cross of the Cathedral help to provide a prayerful atmosphere. From left: St. Anne and Mary; St. Joseph; one of the Stations of the Cross; the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin; the Pieta. Below is a view of the Resurrection Chapel containing the tombs of all the deceased bishops of Cleveland and the relics of St. Christine

Archbishop Joseph Schrembs
Fifth Bishop of Cleveland
1921-1945

continued the work that was begun by his predecessor of reorganizing the diocesan offices. By 1926, all of these offices including the chancery with its archives, were gathered together in what was then known as the National Broadcasting Company Building, now the Superior Building, on Superior Avenue near East 9th Street. The few rooms in the cathedral rectory, used by the chancery since the early days of Bishop Gilmour, were then given back to parish use.

The question of relocating his cathedral in Cleveland Heights or on the property near University Circle, occupied the mind of Bishop Schrembs from his earliest days here in Cleveland. In March, 1924, the property at Superior Avenue and East 9th Street was put up for sale. In 1926, however, it was found to be more advantageous to sell the University, and a few years later Bishop Schrembs publicly announced that the cathedral would remain where it was as long as he was Bishop of Cleveland.

Though the cathedral had long since lost its original character as a prosperous parish church, it was supported by the city in general, by those who stayed in the downtown hotels, and by the many Catholics who worked in the stores and business offices. The Bishop inaugurated the daily Mass at noon which was then and is still well attended.

Monsignor Joseph Smith, the pastor, saw the need once again to refurbish the well-used and now aging church. The interior was once again painted and the Crypt was rebuilt and re-dedicated on October 12, 1927, and included the tombs of the first four bishops along with the relics of St. Christine which were brought from Europe by Bishop Schrembs. In 1928, the tall steeple was declared unsafe and ordered torn down. It was replaced with a much shorter steeple (145 ft.)

Workmen lower the cross from the old tall steeple which was dismantled in 1928 and replaced with a much shorter one

Bishop Schrembs was a most dedicated man, and responded not only to the needs of his own diocese, but also to those of the whole American Church. To aid him in the administration of a continually growing diocese, Monsignor James A. McFadden was named Auxiliary Bishop and consecrated on September 8, 1932.

St. John's Cathedral – 1935

One of the noteworthy events which took place during the time of Bishop Schrembs was the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress, which was held here in September of 1935. Thousands of people from all over the country came to celebrate and deepen their knowledge of the Eucharist. Although most of the major events of the Congress were held in the largest public buildings in Cleveland, the stadium and the Public Auditorium, the cathedral, too, shared in the preparations for this momentous event. During 1935, a new pulpit was added to the somewhat enlarged sanctuary, and north and south entrances were added to the building.

The high point in the life of Bishop Schrembs came on the occasion of his golden jubilee in the priesthood when the newly elected Pope Pius XII by decree of March 25, 1939, conferred upon him the personal title of archbishop. The Apostolic Delegate in making the announcement recalled that the jubilarian "had dedicated every force and energy to the welfare of the Church and the salvation of souls with the love and zeal of a true father and pastor." Mention was made of his services to the Church in the National Catholic Welfare Conference, of his efforts in the spread of public devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and of his "noble and inspired preaching."

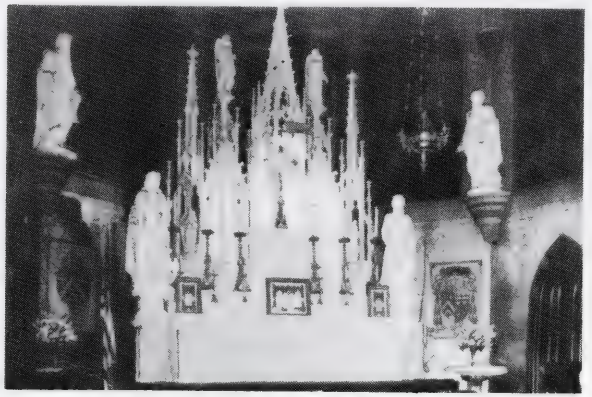
From about this time on, his health began to decline, and by 1942 he was mostly confined to bed. In November of 1942, the appointment of Bishop Edward F. Hoban of Rockford, Illinois, to be Coadjutor Bishop to Archbishop Schrembs was announced. Six months later, the Diocese of Youngstown was created, and the Diocese of Cleveland took on its present eight-county form. In June of 1943, Bishop McFadden was named the First Bishop of Youngstown.

It was about this time that the Cathedral Choir was formed by Mr. Matthew Lucas, who continues to the present time as music director and organist. The Choir, made up of people from all over the diocese, is one of the finest Catholic Church choirs in the United States. Also, a group of adult acolytes was begun to provide for the liturgical needs of the cathedral. Several members of the original choir, as well as some of the original adult acolytes continue in their various roles of service at the present time.

Reconstruction of Cathedral Square

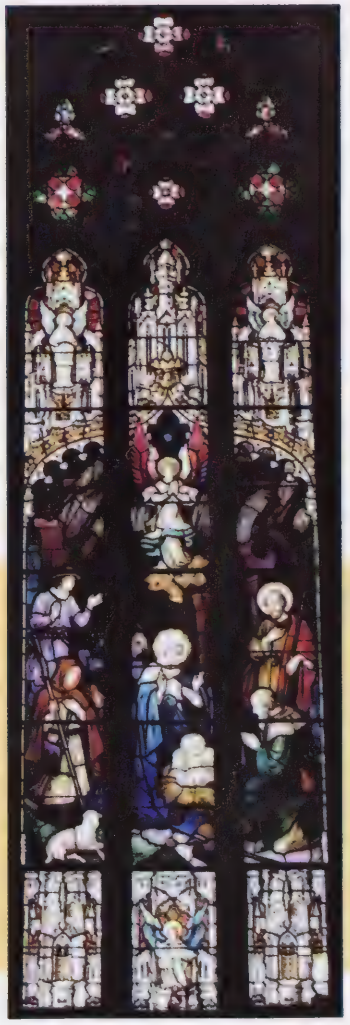
With the death of Archbishop Schrembs on November 2, 1945, Bishop Hoban became the Sixth Bishop of Cleveland. *(continued)*

The Main Altar as it looked in 1942



The Annunciation

The Nativity

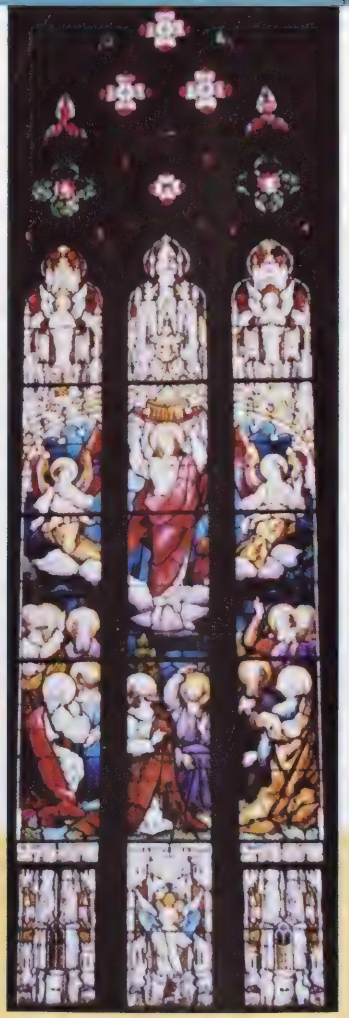


The Presentation in the Temple

Jesus Teaching in the Temple

The Last Supper

The Resurrection



The Ascension

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Window of the Resurrection Chapel, depicting the helpfulness of prayer on behalf of the deceased

South Rose window depicting the Holy Spirit

Archbishop Edward F. Hoban
Sixth Bishop of Cleveland
1945-1966

The centennial of the foundation of the diocese was approaching, and the new bishop quickly laid to rest any thought of relocating the cathedral. He decided instead to renew totally the cathedral complex.

Archbishop Schrembs founded Sisters' College, and it grew and prospered at the same time that the cathedral school was declining. Since the cathedral parish was no longer a parish of homes, by 1943 there were only sixty-six children in the school. These children were transferred to St. Peter's and the Sisters' College took over the whole building. This was still not sufficient, and the bishop decided to build a more suitable building immediately to the east of the cathedral property. Ground was broken for the new St. John College in October, 1945. At the same time, the redevelopment of the older buildings was begun. In January of 1946, the reconstruction of the rectory was started. On May 6, 1946, the sanctuary lamp of the old cathedral was extinguished by Monsignor Richard P. Walsh, the cathedral pastor, after Bishop Hoban celebrated the last Mass. The Blessed Sacrament was then moved to a temporary chapel in the old school building, where there had been a soldiers' canteen during World War II. By July, the old steeple was taken down and the work of reconstruction was fully under way. It was planned that all the buildings adjoining the cathedral would have a matched facing of Tennessee Crab Orchard limestone to harmonize the entire group of buildings.

During the reconstruction, St. Agnes Church on Euclid Avenue was used as a temporary cathedral for special episcopal ceremonies. It was there that Monsignor John R. Hagan was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland in May of 1946. He died unexpectedly only four months later. The next year saw the consecration of Monsignor Floyd L. Begin as Auxiliary Bishop in the same church. Bishop Begin remained as auxiliary until 1962 when he was given charge of the new Diocese of Oakland, California.

Sections of the roof and the entire back wall of the old cathedral were removed, but

Bishop Hoban celebrated the last Mass in the old cathedral on May 6, 1946

the side walls, twenty-six inches thick and judged to be architecturally sound, were preserved and became the shell around which the new cathedral was built. By September of 1947, the scaffolding was removed from the facade to reveal the stone-carved crucifixion scene over the entrance. Work progressed steadily until, by September of 1948, the cathedral was ready for its consecration.

The renewed cathedral preserved a great deal of the old. The side walls and stained-glass windows were the same, with the adding of new glass for the additional windows which were installed. The width of the building—75 feet—remained the same, and the height of 50 feet for the ceiling was maintained. The transept with the North and South naves was added, and the rear wall

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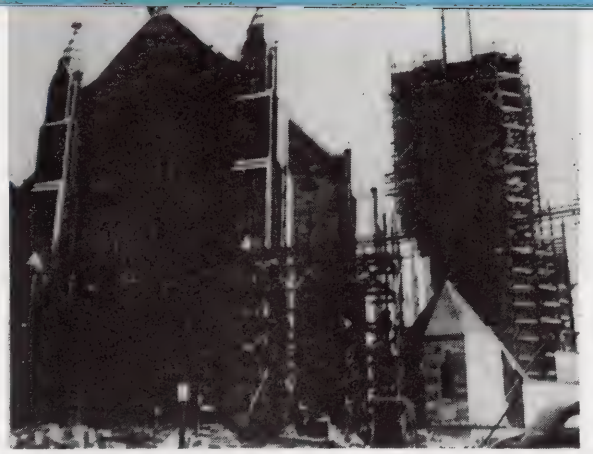
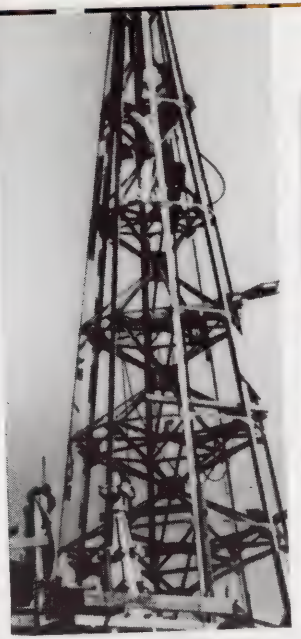


Outlined is the area of Cathedral Square as reconstruction was begun in 1946. Other pictures show the extent and progress of the renovation

Three events were commemorated on November 18, 1977: the centenary of the death of Cleveland's first Bishop, Louis Amadeus Rappe; the 125th anniversary of the Solemn Consecration of the Cathedral in 1852; and the Rededication of the Cathedral Sanctuary

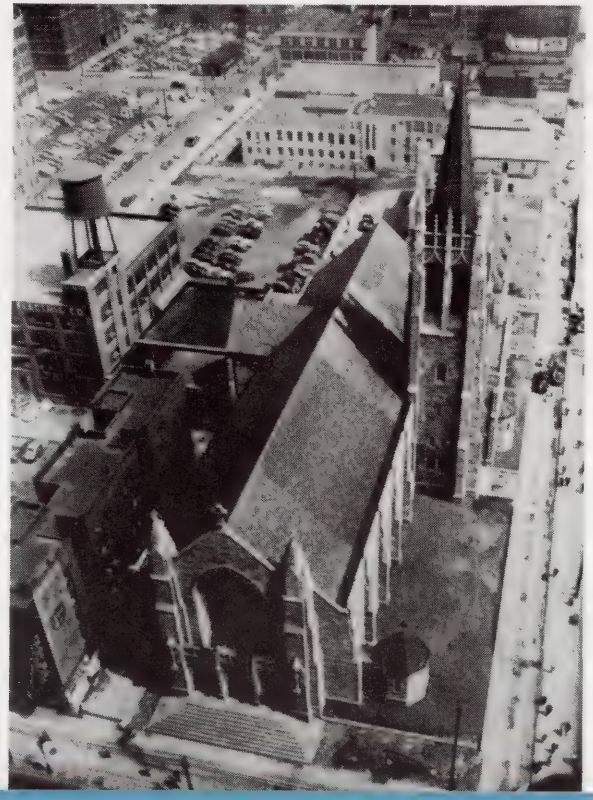


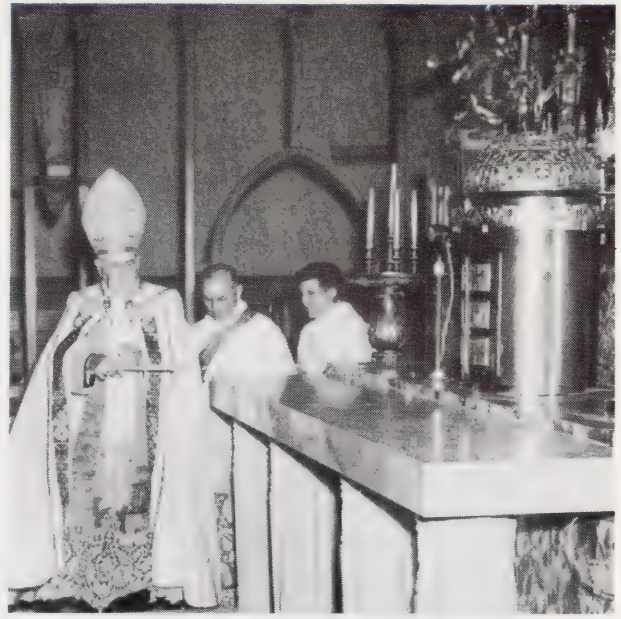
A complete rebuilding took place from 1946-1948. Left above: workmen dismantle spire of the old church, and build framework for new steeple. Other pictures show church interior under renovation

was pushed back 38 feet to make the length of the church 208 feet from front door to back wall. This extension caused the rectory to be directly joined to the cathedral. Of the sixteen Gothic columns supporting the vaulted ceiling, twelve are from the old cathedral, and four new ones in the sanctuary were made to match. The interior furnishings were all new, and a mortuary chapel was added at the northeast corner of the building. The new 185-foot bell tower was built along the south side of the cathedral, occupying the corner formed by the crossing of the nave and transept.

A side chapel was built between the Mortuary Chapel and the sanctuary, and its altar contained the relics of St. Christine. Another chapel on the opposite side of the sanctuary was built as a Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and also enshrined a silver and glass reliquary containing a relic of the True Cross. The side chapels were separated from the sanctuary by great hand-carved wooden screens set with statues of SS. Augustine, Ambrose, Gregory, Patrick, Jerome, Boniface, Cyril, and Methodius.

The focal point of the whole interior was the beautiful Main Altar and the magnificent hand-carved reredos, or altar screen, behind it. The mensa, or altar top, was made of a 10-foot long piece of Botticino marble. The intricately carved pillars supporting it, and the steps leading up to it were of the same material. In the middle of the altar front was the figure of a pelican, an ancient symbol of the Eucharist, since it had once been thought that the pelican fed its young with its own blood. The background of the pelican figure was red Moroccan marble, which was also the material used for the wall immediately behind the altar which formed the support of the candelabra, and the flanking columns which were topped





At left, Cathedral Square in 1948 after reconstruction was completed. Bishop Hoban blesses the new Main Altar at the Solemn Consecration of the rebuilt cathedral on September 6, 1948, as many witness the elaborate ceremonies

◀ *Concelebrants during the Rededication Mass*

with adoring angels. The tabernacle was of bronze and gold plate.

Behind the altar and covering nearly the entire back wall of the chancel, the great wooden reredos was hung, 20 by 27 feet in size, in an intricate design composed of eight hundred and fifty pieces of hand-carved Appalachian oak. In separate niches were carved wooden representations of St. John and the three other Evangelists; just above the level of the altar was the place for the crucifix and for the monstrance when the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for adoration.

Two lecterns, pillars of stone ornamented with the statues of St. Stephen and St. John the Baptist respectively, stood at the edge of the sanctuary.

The seating capacity was increased to approximately fourteen hundred, with the first pew standing about where the Main Altar had been in the old cathedral.

The overall style was described as French Gothic. The architects for this renovation were Stickle, Kelly and Stickle of Cleveland; the decorators, Rambusch Decorating Company of New York; the marble work and wood carving had been done locally by the craftsmen of John W. Winterich and Associates of Cleveland. Two magnificent pipe organs were installed by the Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland.

All of this work reached its culmination in the centennial year of the diocese, with the Solemn Consecration of the Cathedral on September 6, 1948, which began an entire week of festivities and commemorations. Shortly before the completion of the cathedral, the rectory was finished, and reoccupied by the clergy. Also, convent quarters had been added for the Vincentian Sisters of Charity who so faithfully provide domestic service to the cathedral. A bridge joining the rectory with the old Cathedral School building was built, and the old school became the Chancery Building, home of the major diocesan offices. St. John College was also completed and the entire complex was given the name "Cathedral Square." This whole accomplishment is considered to be the beginning of downtown Cleveland's urban renewal.

An Era Of Change

The years of Bishop Hoban were characterized by the foundation of many new parishes and institutions, as well as the expansion and rebuilding of many others. His dedication and hard work were soon recognized when on July 23, 1951, he was notified that Pope Pius XII conferred upon him the personal title of archbishop.

The archbishop continued to add to the cathedral, and soon the beautiful wood-carved shrines of St. Peter and St. Paul were added on either side of the reredos, along with a more elaborate episcopal throne and wood-carved canopy.

In 1953, Monsignor John J. Krol was named Auxiliary Bishop, and was consecrated on September 2nd of that year. He remained here until 1961 when he was appointed Archbishop of Philadelphia. In the year Archbishop Krol went to Philadelphia, Monsignor John F. Whealon was named Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland and was consecrated on July 6, 1961. He remained for five years, until being made Bishop of Erie, Pennsylvania. One year later, Monsignor Clarence E. Elwell was also named Auxiliary Bishop and was consecrated on December 21, 1962. He was later appointed Bishop of Columbus in 1966.

The year 1960 saw the acquisition and demolition of the Erie Hotel immediately north of the cathedral. The old bronze statue of Bishop Rappe was then placed on that side of the cathedral, and a landscaped parking area area took up the rest of the space. Several bronze sculptures were also added to the exterior walls at this time.

By 1963, although well-advanced in age, Archbishop Hoban was still providing for the continued growth of the diocese, and planned

A view of the cathedral from the north includes the Erie Hotel, demolished in 1960, as seen in the same view of the cathedral, left

Below, the statue of Bishop Amadeus Rappe was put in place in September, 1960

the construction of a dormitory tower and cafeteria expansion for St. John College. He dedicated the new nine-story building, which was called Hagan Hall, in September of 1964. It was during this time that the archbishop began to fail in health, and on October 7, 1964, Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann of Columbus was transferred to Cleveland as Coadjutor Bishop with the right of succession. When Archbishop Hoban died on September 22, 1966, Bishop Issenmann became the Seventh Bishop of Cleveland.

Implementing the Decrees of the Second Vatican Council became the main task of Bishop Issenmann. To help him in this, he was given the aid of an Auxiliary Bishop in the person of Monsignor William M. Cosgrove, who was consecrated on September 3, 1968, and remained here until being named Bishop of Belleville, Illinois, in 1976.

Bishop Issenmann also left his touch on the cathedral when in 1972 the repainting of the entire interior was begun under the watchful eye of Monsignor Robert C. Blair, the present cathedral pastor. Besides the repainting, all the pews were refinished, two shrines were added at the rear of the nave, and several new holy water fonts were made for the entrances.

Miss Emma Meens, who had begun serving as cathedral sacristan in 1899, continued in that capacity until she was called home by God in January of 1974.

The Most Reverend Clarence G. Issenmann
Retired Bishop of Cleveland

The awareness of the needs of his diocese, and the limitations caused by failing health prompted Bishop Issenmann to submit his request for retirement in 1974. On June 5, 1974, Bishop James A. Hickey, Rector of the North American College in Rome, became the Eighth Bishop of Cleveland.

Later additions to the reconstructed cathedral included the Episcopal Throne, left, and statues of St. Peter and St. Paul, flanking the Main Altar

Under construction in 1964 were the dormitory tower of St. John College (now The Catholic Center) and the Erieview Tower

". . . Let your light shine before men, in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven"

Matthew 5:16

The nave as seen from behind the Main Altar

The first concelebrated Mass in the cathedral was the Chrism Mass celebrated on Holy Thursday, 1965

The statue of the Risen Christ in the courtyard of St. John College was dedicated by Bishop Issenmann in 1965. The courtyard is now called Hoban Plaza

Drawn Close to the Altar

Soon after his arrival, Bishop Hickey set about evaluating the needs of his diocese. It was found that the growth and expansion of some of the larger Catholic colleges had brought about the duplication of many services formerly provided by St. John College alone. With more potential for expansion at the other college campuses, it was decided to close St. John College. Hagan Hall could easily be converted into a centralized place for diocesan offices, which were badly in need of additional space, and there were several possibilities for the use of the other college buildings. The college was closed in 1975, and after the necessary alterations were made, Hagan Hall was renamed "The Catholic Center," and reopened in 1976.

The same year also witnessed the simultaneous appointment of two new Auxiliary Bishops, Monsignor Michael J. Murphy, and Father Gilbert I. Sheldon, who were ordained bishops together on June 11, 1976, and continue to serve as auxiliaries.

By 1977, it was decided to bring to completion the work that Bishop Issenmann had begun of adapting the cathedral to conform with the liturgical standards set by the Second Vatican Council. In June, the cathedral was closed and the former auditorium of St. John College once again served as a temporary chapel as it had right after its completion during Archbishop Hoban's reconstruction. Nine rows of pews were removed, and the sanctuary platform was extended into the middle of the area where the nave and transept crossed. This reduced the seating capacity to about twelve hundred. The Main Altar was dismantled and reassembled in the middle of the extended platform. The pillars and the central pelican figure of the old altar were used for the new, and a new mensa made of a solid piece of Botticino marble and weighing about two thousand pounds was added. Where the old altar had been, the bishop's chair, called the "cathedra" and the attached presbyterium—a semi-circle of seats for concelebrating priests—now stand. The "cathedra" is the reason why the bishop's church is called the "cathedral," and is the symbol of the union of the local church with the Supreme Teacher of the Church, the Pope. The arrangement now found in the cathedral is actually modeled on the ancient Basilicas of Rome, where the altar of sacrifice is most prominent in the middle, and the chair of the pope or bishop is immediately behind.

The wood screening between the sanctuary and the old side chapels was taken down and replaced against the walls bordering the sanctuary area. The former Blessed Sacrament Chapel area was retained for the same purpose, but with the elimination

of the altar, since it is liturgically proper that there be only one altar in a church. The new pedestal for the Blessed Sacrament is made out of the marble taken from the old baptismal font. The tabernacle is the same one that was formerly placed on the old Main Altar. Above the tabernacle is a new canopy that is made of bronze plates and is constructed in the fashion of a mobile. Its symbolism has been variously described as representing Jacob's Ladder, with the angels "ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" or the Pillar of Fire which marked the presence of God to his people in the Old Testament. The other side chapel was also eliminated, and the relics of St. Christine were placed in the Mortuary Chapel. The reliquary of the True Cross was placed in the niche of the reredos formerly used on occasion for the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Interestingly enough, the present placement of the altar puts it just about where it was in the cathedral consecrated in 1852. The central section of the altar contains many relics including the relics taken from the 1852 altar, the relics placed by Archbishop Hoban in the 1948 altar, plus some relics of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Nepomucene Neumann, both recently canonized American saints. There is also a number of objects of historical interest contained in the altar, as well as the large book that was found in the 1948 altar containing the names of all those of the diocese who were in the armed services during World War II.

The ambo, or pulpit, is built around the figure of St. Stephen, which has remained in its original position, and marble taken from the communion railing was used to make it a more significant place from which the Word of God is read.

Rededication

Monsignor Blair, as so many cathedral pastors before him, performed the job of overseeing the details of the work that was done, and with the help of a group of anonymous benefactors known as the "Friends of the Cathedral" he was able to provide the needed financing for the project.

The new cathedral sanctuary was rededicated on November 18, 1977. This occasion was used both to commemorate the centenary of the death of Bishop Rappe, and to remember the 125th Anniversary of the consecration of St. John Cathedral in 1852. It was mentioned earlier that there were three close friends of Bishop Rappe who also came from France, did mission work in Ohio, and eventually became bishops and

Reconstruction of the sanctuary – 1977

"And the Lord said . . . 'I have consecrated this temple which you have built; I confer my name upon it forever, and my eyes and my heart shall be there always' "

I Kings 9:3

The cathedral sanctuary after work was completed, and just prior to rededication

founders of new dioceses. The present successors of these missionary bishops were the main concelebrants of the "Remembrance and Rededication" celebration, along with Archbishop Joseph Bernardin of Cincinnati as the successor to Bishop Purcell, and Archbishop Jean Jadot as the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the official representative of our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI. A special "Missa Memorialis" entitled "The Promised Land" was composed for the occasion by Dr. Alexander Peloquin, and was sung by the congregation and a choir composed of members of religious groups and communities begun or brought into the diocese by Bishop Rappe. The accompaniment was provided by a 28-piece orchestra, and the whole work directed by the composer.

† † † † † †

This brings us up to date, but by no means completes the history of St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio. This will hopefully remind us that we build on the foundations of those who have come before us, and provide the means for further growth and development by those who will come after us. The history of any church building is the history of the people who are that church. Since people are alive and always changing, this will be reflected in their church, as we have seen it reflected in St. John Cathedral.

LIST OF CATHEDRAL PASTORS

Father John Dillon	1835-1836
(No permanent church)	

Our Lady of the Lake
(St. Mary's on the Flats)

Father Patrick O'Dwyer	1837-1839
Father Peter McLaughlin	1840-1846
Father Maurice Howard	1846-1848
Father Louis De Goesbriand	1848-1853

St. John the Evangelist
(From 1854 onward)

Bishop Amadeus Rappe	1853-1870
Father Edward Hannin	1870-1872
Father Felix Boff	1872-1876
Monsignor Thomas P. Thorpe	1876-1893
Father George J. Vahey	1893-1900
Father Patrick Farrell	1900-1907
Father Thomas Fahey	1907-1911
Monsignor Thomas C. O'Reilly	1911-1928
Monsignor Joseph F. Smith	1928-1943
Monsignor Richard P. Walsh	1943-1966
Bishop Clarence E. Elwell	1966-1967
Monsignor Robert C. Blair	1967-

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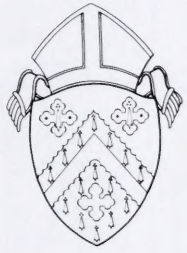
A Tribute To Bishop Rappe

One of the purposes of the Rededication of the Cathedral was to make us more aware of our origins as a diocese. To accomplish that, the pioneer missionaries who came to this area were especially remembered, and in particular our own pioneer bishop, Amadeus Rappe. Briefly mentioned in the narrative of the cathedral history it seems appropriate that we spend a little time to give an account of what happened to him after the cathedral was built.

The period of 1850 to 1870 saw tremendous growth in the northern Ohio area. The population multiplied several times in both native-born citizens and immigrants from other countries. The Cleveland area became the home of many nationality groups which are still an essential part of this area today. Unfortunately, because of the fears, prejudices, and cultural differences that were also a part of this diverse heritage, many problems were also brought about. Trying to supply the pastoral needs of so many, and trying to be fair to all while having very limited resources was a most arduous task. Bishop Rappe, of his own admission, was more of a missionary than an administrator. His pastoral concern and love for his people were undisputed. The rapid growth of his diocese and the complex problems that began to develop caused him a great deal of anxiety. The arising of some formidable personalities among the diocesan clergy added another dimension to the whole situation.

But the problems of the diocese were not Bishop Rappe's only worries. By 1870, he was nearing his seventieth year, and a good part of his days had been spent leading the rugged life of an American missionary. He had carved a diocese out of the wilderness; leaving Cleveland with an impressive cathedral, one hundred and thirty-seven churches



(about seventy-five with parochial schools), nine religious orders of women, five orphanages, two hospitals, and a home for the aged, plus several institutions for those with special needs. Quite a record for starting with nothing! Besides all of this, he was rapidly losing the sight of one of his eyes.

All of these considerations led Bishop Rappe to the conclusion that he should retire from the administration of the diocese. He had grown to love the people of the Diocese of Cleveland and had served them selflessly. He wanted to continue to serve them even if it meant being at a distance in the closing years of his life.

In September of 1870, Bishop Rappe went to Burlington, Vermont, to the diocese of his old friend, Bishop De Goesbriand. He could have easily gone into retirement to take a well-earned rest. But he did not. The Diocese of Burlington stood in great need of priestly missionaries, and this was the life that Bishop Rappe continued to lead. Scarcely more than five months after his arrival in Vermont, he was able to report to a friend that he had already prepared more than one thousand children and young adults between the ages of twelve and twenty-five for their first communion and confirmation. He continued a most active missionary life until September 7, 1877, when he fell ill after having preached a mission, an activity for which he was widely known. The next day, he lapsed into a coma from which he never regained consciousness. He died peacefully that night at 11:30 on September 8, 1877, in his seventy-seventh year. The last words which he spoke among mortal men were: "I have prayed for my friends; I have prayed for my enemies; now may God bless them all."

He is buried in the Resurrection Chapel (the mortuary chapel) of his cathedral. ■